

[NOTE Additions are underlined; deletions are within double square brackets]

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (currently amended) A gastrointestinal lavage system comprising:
 - a) a tubular means for permitting gastrointestinal lavage and vacuuming; said tubular means having a central bore for loosely receiving a tube of an endoscope; said tubular means having a flexible tube section, with a proximal end, adapted for sliding into a gastrointestinal tract and a rigid, expanded end section; said rigid, expanded end section including an internal means for communicating with said central bore;
 - b) a collar means for forming an air- and water-tight seal between a head of said endoscope and said rigid, expanded end section; and
 - c) a connecting means for connecting lavage and vacuum tubing to said internal means.
2. (original) A gastrointestinal lavage system as claimed in claim 1 in which said tube section further has a fenestration near its proximal end.
3. (original) A gastrointestinal lavage system as claimed in claim 1 in which said tube section further includes a medial pleat.
4. (currently amended) A gastrointestinal lavage system as claimed in claim 1 further comprising a cap means for forming an air- and water-tight seal with said collar means,
5. (original) A gastrointestinal lavage system as claimed in claim 1 in which said internal means comprises two peripheral bores.

6. (original) A gastrointestinal lavage system as claimed in claim 1 in which said internal means comprises a hollow center.
7. (currently amended) A gastrointestinal lavage system comprising: a tube section with a proximal end; said tube section being flexible and adapted to slide into a gastrointestinal tract for gastrointestinal lavage and vacuuming; an expanded end section with a distal end integral with said tube section; said expanded end section being rigid; said tube section having a central bore there through; said central bore being large enough to loosely receive a tube of an endoscope; said expanded end section having an internal means for communicating with said central bore; said expanded end section adapted at said distal end around said central bore to form an air- and water-tight seal with the head of said endoscope and to connect vacuum and lavage tubing to said internal means.
8. (original) A gastrointestinal lavage system as claimed in claim 7 in which said tube section further has a fenestration near said proximal end.
9. (original) A gastrointestinal lavage system as claimed in claim 7 in which said tube section further comprises a medial pleat.
10. (original) A gastrointestinal lavage system as claimed in claim 7 further comprising a cap adapted to form an air- and water-tight seal at said distal end around said central bore.
11. (original) A gastrointestinal lavage system as claimed in claim 7 in which said internal means comprises two peripheral bores.
12. (original) A gastrointestinal lavage system as claimed in claim 7 in which said internal means comprises a hollow center.
13. (currently amended) A gastrointestinal lavage system comprising:
 - a) a tube having a tube proximal end and a tube distal end adapted to slide [loosely] into the gastrointestinal tract for gastrointestinal lavage and vacuuming; said tube having a

tube central bore; said tube central bore being large enough to loosely receive the tube of an endoscope;

- b) a housing, having a housing proximal end and a housing distal end, attached at said housing proximal end to said tube distal end; said housing being the same outer diameter as said tube at said housing proximal end and of larger diameter at said housing distal end; said housing having an internal means for communicating with said tube central bore;
 - c) a collar attached to said housing annularly with said housing central bore; said collar adapted to form an air- and water-tight seal with the head of said endoscope; [and]
 - d) a vacuum fitting attached to said housing; said vacuum fitting adapted to connect a vacuum tube to said internal means[.]; whereby vacuum can be applied to said central bore; and
 - e) a lavage fitting attached to said housing; said lavage fitting adapted to connect a lavage tube to said internal means; whereby lavage fluid can be applied to said central bore.
14. (original) A gastrointestinal lavage system as claimed in claim 13 in which said tube further has a fenestration near said proximal end.
15. (original) A gastrointestinal lavage system as claimed in claim 13 in which said tube further comprises a medial pleat.
16. (original) A gastrointestinal lavage system as claimed in claim 13 further comprising a cap adapted to form an air- and water-tight seal to said collar.
17. (original) A gastrointestinal lavage system as claimed in claim 13 in which said internal means comprises a housing central bore and at least two peripheral bores communicating

with said housing central bore within said housing; said housing central bore being coextensive with said tube central bore.

18. (original) A gastrointestinal lavage system as claimed in claim 13 in which said internal means comprises a hollow center.
19. (currently amended) A method of performing gastrointestinal lavage comprising the steps of:
 - a) providing an apparatus having a tube section with a proximal end and an expanded end section with a distal end; said tube section being flexible and adapted to slide into the gastrointestinal tract; said expanded end section being rigid; said apparatus having a central bore there through; said central bore being large enough to loosely receive the tube of an endoscope; said expanded end section having [an internal means] at least two peripheral bores communicating with said central bore within said expanded end section; said expanded end section adapted at said distal end to form an air- and water-tight seal with the a of said endoscope and to connect a lavage tube [tubing] to one of said peripheral bores and a vacuum tube to the other of said peripheral bores [internal means];
 - b) sliding an endoscope tube first into said central bore until said endoscope head forms an air- and water-tight seal with said central bore;
 - c) connecting a lavage tube to one of said peripheral bores;
 - d) connecting a vacuum tube to the other of said peripheral bores;
 - e) inserting said endoscope and said apparatus into a gastrointestinal tract; and
 - f) manually controlling said apparatus with visual feedback from said endoscope to apply lavage and vacuum where and as needed within said gastrointestinal tract.

20. (original) A method as claimed in claim 19 in which said tube section further has a fenestration near said proximal end.
21. (original) A method as claimed in claim 19 in which said tube section further comprises a medial pleat.
22. (original) A method as claimed in claim 19 further comprising the steps of:
 - a) providing a cap adapted to form an air- and water-tight seal at said distal end around said central bore;
 - b) turning off said lavage and vacuum;
 - c) removing said endoscope from said central bore;
 - d) capping said central bore with said cap; and
 - e) turning on said lavage and vacuum.
23. (original) A method as claimed in claim 19 further comprising the steps of:
 - a) turning off said lavage and vacuum;
 - b) removing said endoscope from said central bore;
 - c) attaching a lavage tube to said central bore; and
 - d) turning on said lavage and vacuum.
24. (original) A method as claimed in claim 19 further comprising the steps of:
 - a) turning off said lavage and vacuum;
 - b) removing said endoscope from said central bore;

- c) attaching a vacuum tube to said central bore; and
 - d) turning on said lavage and vacuum.
25. (new) A gastrointestinal lavage system comprising:
- a) a tubular means for gastrointestinal lavage and vacuuming; said tubular means having a central bore for loosely receiving a tube of an endoscope; said tubular means having a flexible tube section, with a medial pleat and a proximal end, adapted for sliding into a gastrointestinal tract and a rigid, expanded end section; said rigid, expanded end section including an internal means for communicating with said central bore;
 - b) a collar means for forming an air- and water-tight seal between a head of said endoscope and said rigid, expanded end section; and
 - c) a connecting means for connecting lavage and vacuum tubing to said internal means.
26. (new) A gastrointestinal lavage system as claimed in claim 25 in which said tube section further has a fenestration near its proximal end.
27. (new) A gastrointestinal lavage system as claimed in claim 25 further comprising a cap means for forming an air- and water-tight seal with said collar means.
28. (new) A gastrointestinal lavage system as claimed in claim 25 in which said internal means comprises two peripheral bores.
29. (new) A gastrointestinal lavage system as claimed in claim 25 in which said internal means comprises a hollow center.
30. (new) A gastrointestinal lavage system comprising: a tube section with a medial pleat and a proximal end; said tube section being flexible and adapted to slide into a gastrointestinal tract for gastrointestinal lavage and vacuuming; an expanded end section with a distal end integral with said tube section; said expanded end section being rigid;

said tube section having a central bore there through; said central bore being large enough to loosely receive a tube of an endoscope; said expanded end section having an internal means for communicating with said central bore; said expanded end section adapted at said distal end around said central bore to form an air- and water-tight seal with the head of said endoscope and to connect vacuum and lavage tubing to said internal means.

31. (new) A gastrointestinal lavage system as claimed in claim 30 in which said tube section further has a fenestration near said proximal end.
32. (new) A gastrointestinal lavage system as claimed in claim 30 further comprising a cap adapted to form an air- and water-tight seal at said distal end around said central bore.
33. (new) A gastrointestinal lavage system as claimed in claim 30 in which said internal means comprises two peripheral bores.
34. (new) A gastrointestinal lavage system as claimed in claim 30 in which said internal means comprises a hollow center.
35. (new) A gastrointestinal lavage system comprising:
 - a) a tube having a tube proximal end, a tube distal end and a medial pleat, adapted to slide into the gastrointestinal tract for gastrointestinal lavage and vacuuming; said tube having a tube central bore; said tube central bore being large enough to loosely receive the tube of an endoscope;
 - b) a housing, having a housing proximal end and a housing distal end, attached at said housing proximal end to said tube distal end; said housing being the same outer diameter as said tube at said housing proximal end and of larger diameter at said housing distal end; said housing having an internal means for communicating with said tube central bore;

- c) a collar attached to said housing annularly with said housing central bore; said collar adapted to form an air- and water-tight seal with the head of said endoscope; a vacuum fitting attached to said housing; said vacuum fitting adapted to connect a vacuum tube to said internal means; whereby vacuum can be applied to said central bore; and
 - d) a lavage fitting attached to said housing; said lavage fitting adapted to connect a lavage tube to said internal means; whereby lavage fluid can be applied to said central bore.
36. (new) A gastrointestinal lavage system as claimed in claim 35 in which said tube further has a fenestration near said proximal end.
37. (new) A gastrointestinal lavage system as claimed in claim 35 further comprising a cap adapted to form an air- and water-tight seal to said collar.
38. (new) A gastrointestinal lavage system as claimed in claim 35 in which said internal means comprises a housing central bore and at least two peripheral bores communicating with said housing central bore within said housing; said housing central bore being coextensive with said tube central bore.
39. (new) A gastrointestinal lavage system as claimed in claim 35 in which said internal means comprises a hollow center.
40. (new) A method of performing gastrointestinal lavage comprising the steps of:
- a) providing an apparatus having a tube section with a medial pleat, a proximal end and an expanded end section with a distal end; said tube section being flexible and adapted to slide into the gastrointestinal tract; said expanded end section being rigid; said apparatus having a central bore there through; said central bore being large enough to loosely receive the tube of an endoscope; said expanded end section having at least two peripheral bores communicating with said central bore within said

expanded end section; said expanded end section adapted at said distal end to form an air- and water-tight seal with the a of said endoscope and to connect a lavage tube to one of said peripheral bores and a vacuum tube to the other of said peripheral bores;

- b) sliding an endoscope tube first into said central bore until said endoscope head forms an air- and water-tight seal with said central bore;
 - c) connecting a lavage tube to one of said peripheral bores;
 - d) connecting a vacuum tube to the other of said peripheral bores;
 - e) inserting said endoscope and said apparatus into a gastrointestinal tract; and
 - f) manually controlling said apparatus with visual feedback from said endoscope to apply lavage and vacuum where and as needed within said gastrointestinal tract.
41. (new) A method as claimed in claim 40 in which said tube section further has a fenestration near said proximal end.
42. (new) A method as claimed in claim 40 further comprising the steps of:
- a) providing a cap adapted to form an air- and water-tight seal at said distal end around said central bore;
 - b) turning off said lavage and vacuum;
 - c) removing said endoscope from said central bore;
 - d) capping said central bore with said cap; and
 - e) turning on said lavage and vacuum.
43. (new) A method as claimed in claim 40 further comprising the steps of:
- a) turning off said lavage and vacuum;

- b) removing said endoscope from said central bore;
- c) attaching a lavage tube to said central bore; and
- d) turning on said lavage and vacuum.

44. (new) A method as claimed in claim 40 further comprising the steps of:

- a) turning off said lavage and vacuum;
- b) removing said endoscope from said central bore;
- c) attaching a vacuum tube to said central bore; and
- d) turning on said lavage and vacuum.